

individual fuel cells by way of protective or bypass diodes, or electronics for bridging individual fuel cells which are no longer capable of functioning.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 33, in the Specification as filed with the following amended paragraph:

One example of a consumer to be supplied directly on the [printed] printed circuit board in the form of a microelectronic circuit is e.g. a sensor which is supplied electrically in a direct manner by way of the fuel cell system.

On page 17, please amend the section heading on line 1 as follows:

~~Patent claims~~ CLAIMS

On a new page beginning after page 21, please add the following heading and paragraph as follows:

ABSTRACT

A planar fuel cell system comprising at least two fuel cells which are electrically connected in series in a plane via horizontally overlapping connecting lugs and comprise an anode current collector on the anode side and comprise a cathode current collector on the cathode side is provided. The current collectors are electrically connected to the connecting lugs and a polymer electrolyte membrane, wherein the current path is led around the polymer electrolyte membrane. The fuel cell system is designed with a printed circuit board technique and as a composite of a first, anode-side printed circuit board and a second, cathode-side printed circuit board, and the current collectors and connecting lugs are designed as strip conductors of these printed circuit boards. Methods of manufacturing the fuel cell system are also provided.